Rail Link Line from Bidar to Gulbarga

3317. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey for providing rail link line from Bidar to Gulbarga, and if so, the outcome thereof;

(b) whether Government are aware that as a result of the laying of this link line, distance from Bangalore to Delhi would be reduced by 400 km., and

(c) if so, by when the said link line is proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ):(a) yes, sir. A Reconnaissance engineering-cum-Traffic survey for a new BG line from Bidar to Gulbarga was conducted by South Central Railway in 1995. The results of the survey have revealed the cost of the 116 kms. long line as Rs.180 crores, with a Rate of Return of 3.5%

Due to the unremunerative nature of the project, the same was not found to be viable and could not be taken up for implementation.

(b) The saving in distance will be only 42 kms., and not 400 kms.

(c) Does not arise.

Study on Ecological Status

3318. SHRI YERA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any district-wise study has been done on the ecological status in the country;

(b) if so, when was this study done;

(c) the organisation which conducted the study; and

(d) the steps proposed to have an annual review in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIORNMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD: (a) to (c) The central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in collaboration with the State Boards, National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation, National Remote sensing and other concerned agencies has taken up a scheme in early 1995 for preparation of district-wise Zoning Atlas in order to delineate ecologically sensitive areas, critically pollutted areas, flood prone areas, Prime agricultural lands etc. and to classify the areas including suitability for new industrial locations, taking into account related environmental factors. So far, 19 districts in 14 States have been selected for this scheme.

(d) The information maps of zoning Atlas are stored in a digital form to make any updating or modifications easier as and when a particular theme gets changed due to industrial activities, micro-meteorological variations, human settlements etc. Such a review or modification would be desirable once in five years.

Rail Route per 1000 SQ. K.M.

3319. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rail route per thousand square kilometre in the country as on date, State-wise and Zone-wise;

(b) whether it is adequate;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to increase the rail routs during the remaining period of the Eigth Five-Year Plan, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ):(a) Zone-wise statistics for rail route kms. per 1000

square kms. of area is not maintained. The state-wise rail route kms. per thousand square kms. of area, as on 31.03.1995 is as under:

Name of State/ Union Territory	Route kms.per 1000 Sq. Kms.	Name of state/ Union Territory	Route Kms. per 1000 sq. Kms.
Andhra Pradesh	18.44	Nagaland	0.56
Arunachal Pradesh	0.02	Orissa	12.90
Assam	30.11	Punjab	42.11
Bihar	30.42	Rajasthan	17.34
Delhi	144.28	Sikkim	—
Goa	21.36	Tamil Nadu	30.80
Gujarat	18.04	Tripura	4.26
Haryana	32.85	Uttar Pradesh	30.32
Himachal Pradesh	4.79	West Bengal	43.00
Jammu & Kashmir	0.40	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—
Karnataka	16.28	Chandigarh	87.80
Kerala	27.09	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—
Madhya Pradesh	13.49	Daman & Diu	—
Maharashtra	17.75	Lakshadweep	—
Manipur	0.06	Pondicherry	22.36
Meghalaya	—		
Mizoram	0.07		

(b) and (c) Various new lines and doubling Projects are being undertaken to augment network capacity and provide new linkages depending upon the availability of resources.

(d) Several new line projects have been taken up to increase the rail route. Details of new lines opened during 1995-96 and 1996-97 and likely to be completed during the remaining period of the 8th Five Year Plan are as under:

Name of the Section	States	Length (kms)	Remarks
1. Damanjodi-rayagada	Orissa	145	Completed
2. Beas-Goindwal	Punjab	27	Completed
3. Chhitauni-Bagaha	UP/Bihar	19	Completed
4. Karanjali-Nischantpur	West Bengal	08	Work in Progress
5. Jogighopa-Goal-para	Assam	10	—do—
6. Khajuri-Mohana	M.P.	41	—do—
	KONKAN RAILWAY		
1. Udupi-Kundapura	Karnataka	32	Completed
2. Veer-Khed	Maharashtra	51	-do-
4. Chiplun-Kun-dapura	Maharashtra/ Karnataka	532	work in progress

Fare concession for research scholars

3320. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing concessions in railway tickets to full-time research scholars in recognised Universities while proceeding to their home towns during vacation or while going to approved places in connection with their research work;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the norms prescribed for providing such travel concessions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ):(a) to (c) The research scholars upto the age of 35 years, are eligible for 50% concession in second and sleeper class fares when travelling in connection with research work only, on production of the requisite certificate from Registrar of the University or Director of Public Instruction.

कच्छ क्षेत्र में नई रेल लाइनों के लिए प्रस्ताव

3321. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी सोलंकी: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान कच्छ क्षेत्र में रेल मार्गों के संबंध में गुजरात सरकार द्वारा भेजे गए प्रस्तावों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) प्रस्तावों के अनुसार उक्त क्षेत्र के रेल मार्गों की कुल लम्बाई कितनी है;

(ग) इन प्रस्तावों के कार्यान्वयन हेतु स्वीकृत योजनाओं और आबंटित धनराशि का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) राज्य सरकार के कुछ प्रस्तावों को नामंजूर कर देने के क्या कारण है?